

## NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Mr. William Houston read a paper on "Spelling Reform" a few days ago at a meeting of the Canadian Institute in Toronto. He stated that he reads between three and four thousand letters a year, and finds that hardly more than three in a hundred are correctly spelled, and that as a rule the uneducated spell more correctly than the educated. Modern spelling, he thought, is a tyrannical superstition inherited from the eighteenth century, and Milton's spelling was much more correct, both etymologically and phonetically. It will be news to many that Edmund Spenser did not use the n in such words as *unpleasant*, *desirous*, which Americans have been so severely criticized by the English. Doubtless a return in spelling is desirable, but the practical difficulties in the way of accomplishing it are great.

Nearly one-fifth of all the children in Providence, R. I., of school age, did not attend school a single day during the year 1883.

A revised course of instruction will soon be introduced in the public schools of Philadelphia, and Superintendent McAllister intends to begin a series of teachers' conferences, the object of which will be to discuss and exemplify the methods of instruction which the course implies.

The catalogue of Franklin and Marshall College shows it to be in a flourishing condition. It has recently received some liberal endowments which will enable it to add largely to its effectiveness.

The Province of New-Brunswick has an excellent common-school system, maintained by general taxation, but a large percentage of the children of school age do not attend school at all. In view of this fact *The St. John News* calls for the enactment of a compulsory education law by the local government.

At the last monthly meeting of the Rochester Academy of Science, Dr. W. F. Sheehan read a paper on "School Hygiene," which abounded in excellent practical suggestions. "The selection of a site for a public school," he said, "requires as much, if not more, care than a private residence. An ideal location would seem to be near a public park, on a wide street, with the rooms having an eastern and southern exposure; or in a thinly-settled and growing quarter where land enough can be procured at a moderate price to guarantee against hemming in from future building operations. In his opinion the purity of air in schools depends almost entirely on the purity of the cellar air, and he therefore condemns the common practice of keeping cellars unventilated and filling them up with refuse or noxious matter."

For some time past an attempt has been made in the public schools of Nashville, Tenn., to dispense with corporal punishment except in very extreme cases. And the annual report of the schools just published, states the result in this way: "Under the general influence of this exaltation of the law of love over that of force, quarreling and fighting, once the rule, are now the exceptions. Obscenity and profanity have entirely ceased, truancy is of rare occurrence, tardiness has greatly diminished, detention after school hours has been abolished, quiet decorum in the school-rooms and interested attention to study are easily secured, and the intercourse of parents, pupils and teachers is harmonious and pleasant. We would not be understood as arguing that all penalties should be removed in school management, or that corporal punishment can be safely prohibited. In fact, as far as strict discipline is concerned, it is right to insist in school life, in order to the higher end of developing interest and character, and should never, either in enforcing or avoiding it, be ridden as a hobby."

The National Educational Exposition will be held this year at Madison, Wis., on July 15, and will be in session four days. The exhibits will be arranged in twelve departments, and will include working illustrations of all the most approved methods of teaching. There will also be exhibits of circulars of best schools, no charge to those applying to teachers, not to teachers, and no charge.

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